

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 5 1. A print medium having a data storage device attached thereto, said print medium being configured to receive a printed image, and said data storage device being configured to receive and store printing information.
- 10 2. The print medium of claim 1, wherein the data storage device is adhered to an outer surface of the print medium.
- 15 3. The print medium of claim 1, wherein the data storage device is embedded within the print medium.
- 20 4. The print medium of claim 1, wherein the data storage device comprises a magnetic strip.
- 25 5. The print medium of claim 1, wherein the data storage device comprises an optical data storage device.
- 30 6. The print medium of claim 1, wherein the printing information comprises data related to properties of the print medium.
- 25 7. The print medium of claim 1, wherein the printed image has been applied to the print medium, and the printing information comprises data related to the printed image.
- 30 8. A printing system, comprising:
 a print medium configured to receive a printed image;
 a data storage device attached to the print medium, said data storage device being configured to receive and store printing information;
 a printer configured to print the image on the print medium; and

a printing information processor associated with the printer, said printing information processor being configured to read data from or write data to the data storage device.

5 9. The system of claim 8, wherein the printing information processor comprises a data read/write processor, capable of both reading data from and writing data to the data storage device.

10 10. The system of claim 8, wherein the data storage device is adhered to an outer surface of the print medium.

11. The system of claim 8, wherein the data storage device is embedded within the print medium.

15 12. The system of claim 8, wherein the data storage device comprises a magnetic strip.

13. The system of claim 8, wherein the data storage device comprises an optical data storage device.

20 14. The system of claim 8, wherein the printing information comprises information relating to properties of the print medium.

25 15. The system of claim 8, wherein the printed image has been applied to the print medium, and the printing information comprises data related to the printed image.

16. The system of claim 8, wherein the printer is an ink-jet printer.

30 17. The system of claim 8, wherein the printer is a laser printer.

18. The system of claim 8, wherein the printer and the printing information processor are integrated.

19. The system of claim 8, wherein the printing information processor is
5 an auxiliary unit that is operable remote from the printer.

20. A method for associating printing information with a print medium,
comprising steps of:

10 attaching a data storage device to a print medium; and
storing printing information on the data storage device.

21. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of attaching the data storage device to the print medium includes the step of adhering the data storage device to an outer surface of the print medium.

15 22. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of attaching the data storage device to the print medium includes the step of embedding the data storage device within the print medium.

20 23. The method of claim 20, wherein the data storage device comprises a magnetic strip.

24. The method of claim 20, wherein the data storage device comprises an optical data storage device.

25 25. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of storing printing information on the data storage device includes the step of storing information relating to properties of the print medium on the data storage device.

30 26. The method of claim 20, wherein the step of storing printing information on the data storage device includes the step of storing information

relating to printed material applied to the print medium on the data storage device.